

ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH (*Cydia*, *Grapholita* or *Laspeyresia*
molesta)



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Larva inside shoot



Typical 'strike'
damage to shoot
tip of peach



Adult Moth

Damage to almonds
caused by Oriental Fruit
moth



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ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH

Description

Oriental Fruit Moth is a major pest of peach and a minor pest of apple, almond, pear, apricot, plum and quince.

The first moths come out of hibernation at the end of March. The adult flies in the evenings and lays eggs on leaves when the temperature is over 15°C. The larva bores into new shoots which wilt ('Shoot strikes'). Like Codling Moth, the larva also attacks fruits and eats the core. Nurseries are sometimes attacked. The larva forms a cocoon for the pupa either on a branch or at the ground. There are up to four generations lasting till October. Overwintering is as a pupa in a cocoon.

Monitoring

1. Note orchards with problems with fruit/nut damage for treatment in the following year.
2. Wilting shoot-tips (strikes) on peach or almond should be counted. Monitor trees for shoot strikes in mid-April. Shoot strikes are easiest to see on young trees and on water sprouts. Cut the shoot lengthwise to find the larva and identify it: Oriental fruit moth larvae are white or pink with a brown head and peach twig borer larvae are dark brown with white portions between each body segment and a black head. If there are 4 or more strikes per mature tree, treatment will be needed.
3. Pheromone traps can be used to time spray treatment. Place traps in orchards in February and monitor weekly. Time the spray 7 days after the first males of the second generation are caught—usually in May.

Control

If necessary, apply Spinosad or Chlorpyrifos in early morning or late evening to avoid bees. Sprays for Codling Moth will also control Oriental Fruit Moth.